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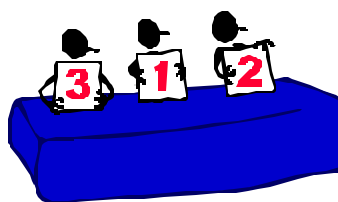
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With the passing of Senate Bill 1237, the Board has a new complaint adjudication procedure. The new law, which went into effect on August 25, 2004, required the Board chairperson to appoint a complaint screening committee consisting of at least three Board members, which includes a public member. The committee will review all complaints the Board receives and make a decision based on information obtained by an investigation, to either dismiss a complaint or refer it to the full Board for further review and action. If a complaint is dismissed by the committee, it will still become a part of a licensee's permanent record, but it will not be disclosed over the telephone or on the Board's web site.

Complaints that are referred by the committee to the full Board will be handled in the same manner in which complaints are now adjudicated. That is, the full Board at that point would review the allegations and take action authorized by A.R.S. §32-2081. Complaints resolved by the full Board will still become a permanent part of a licensee's record and be reported on the Board's website and disclosed over the phone, even if dismissed.

The meetings of the complaint screening committee will be public meetings, subject to Arizona's Open Meeting laws. Committee meeting minutes will be taken and made available to the public on request, but will not be posted on the Board's website.



The Complaint Screening Committee will consist of two psychologist Board members and one public Board member.

The legislation was the result of a compromise between the Board and a group of psychologists in the community who originally requested that the bill be introduced by Senator Barbara Leff. Many of these psychologists who work in the forensic and custody arena believed that they receive a disproportionate number of complaints due to the nature of their work, as compared to other psychologists. While a majority of these complaints are dismissed, there was some concern that their high numbers casts the psychologists in a bad light.

These psychologists also felt that they spend more time and money before the Board defending themselves from complaints, most of which are ultimately dismissed by the Board, but which still go on their record. The idea of forming a committee to screen out complaints that are without merit surfaced during the Task Force on Complaint Process meetings which the Board convened in 2003. As originally proposed, the bill would have applied only to psychologists who perform judicially-ordered evaluations. However, the Board lobbied to expand the benefits of this legislation to include all Arizona psychologists by revising the complaint process to address the concerns of licensees and consumers, while at the same time maintaining the Board's role in regulating the psychology profession and protecting consumers.

The intent of the law is to allow the committee to dismiss complaints that have no merit, while allowing the full Board to better use its time adjudicating those cases that have merit. The Board expects this new procedure to reduce the overall workload for the full Board. In the last five years the Board received

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Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners

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Vacant—Public Member

REFLECTIONS ON PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY TRAINING

By Wil Counts, R.Ph., Ph.D., Board Member



The opinions reflected in this article are exclusively those of the writer and do not reflect the consensus of the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners.

Who Gets More Complaints?

Male:	75%
Female:	25%
Ph.D.:	82%
Ed.D.:	14%
Psy.D.:	4%

Older licensees: 80.5%
(License numbers 1—1375)

Newer licensees: 19.5%
(License numbers 1375—3647)

Percentage of licenses who are...

Male:	58%
Female:	42%
Ph.D.:	83%
Ed.D.:	9%
Psy.D.:	8%
Older:	52%
Newer:	48%

Having recently completed a 450 hour certificate training program at *The Psychopharmacology Institute (TPI)*, I would like to share some of my thoughts about adding the training to prescribe psychotropics to my repertoire of skills as a psychologist. Initially, I dreaded the thought of going back to school to study psychopharmacology. However, as I completed the coursework, my feelings changed to optimism as I realized how the training was improving my competency to practice psychology. Understanding the brain, receptors, neurotransmitters, enzyme systems, metabolism, half-lives, drug classification, etc. have taken my psychology practice to a higher level. Even if I never write a prescription, I feel that my confidence and my ability to diagnose and develop treatment plans will be improved tremendously.

Most patients we see these days are either already on psychotropic medications, have been on them, or are contemplating taking

“Effective coordination of care between psychologists and medical professionals is enhanced by in-depth knowledge of psychotropic medication on both sides.”

psychotropic medications. I can truthfully state the psychopharmacology training provides in-depth knowledge of the brain, the body, psychotropic medication and general pharmacology. Sometimes the specific knowledge of psychotropic medication is more in-depth than that of the patients' primary care provider which increases the ability of the

psychologist to become an integral and necessary part of the healthcare provider team. The *American Psychological Association (APA)* is promoting psychologists to be regarded as healthcare providers as they strive to document the relationship between physical health and mental health. Prescribing privileges for those psychologists with a science aptitude and the motivation to practice in the medical aspect of the profession is definitely an integral piece of the mission for psychologists to be appropriately regarded as health care providers.

Currently, two states, New Mexico and Louisiana, and the territory of Guam have passed legislation for psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medication. Approximately thirteen additional states are preparing to introduce prescribing

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Complaint Screening Committee

(Continued from page 1)

232 complaints, of which 165 were dismissed. Of the 165 complaints dismissed, 150 were dismissed during the initial review stage of the process and the other 15 were dismissed following a full Board review. If this trend were to continue, two-thirds of all complaints received could be dismissed by the complaint screening committee.

The initial Complaint Screening Committee will consist of Dr. David Yandell, Mr. Byron Rimm and Dr. Maryann Santos de Barona. The initial terms will be

staggered with one member serving for six months, one member for five months and one member for four months. Thereafter, Committee members will serve staggered rotating terms of three months each. The first regularly scheduled meeting of the committee is scheduled to take place at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2004. [UPDATE: THIS MEETING WAS CANCELED.] Meetings will be held on a monthly basis in the B1 Conference Room where the Board regularly meets, which is located in the basement of 1400 W. Washington in Phoenix. It is anticipated that

licensees, complainants and attorneys will attend the Complaint Screening Committee meetings and will be given the opportunity to address the Committee for five minutes regarding their case.

All complaints received by the Board after August 25, 2004, the effective date of the new law, will go before the Complaint Screening Committee. Those pending complaints that the Board received prior to August 25, 2004, which are still unresolved, will continue to be initially reviewed by the full Board.

Miki Paul, Ph.D. and Byron Rimm Join the Board

Miki Paul, Ph.D. and Byron N. Rimm were appointed in February by Governor Napolitano as the Board's newest members.

Byron Rimm of Scottsdale, Arizona, is a public member who replaces Denise Bainton, J.D. He is the Vice President of Manufacturing at the Dial Corporation, which was recently acquired by the Henkel Group, and has worked for Dial since 1998. Prior to that, he worked for Procter & Gamble for several years, rising through the ranks while working in Georgia, Wisconsin, South Carolina and California. Mr. Rimm has been a member of various civic boards including the Urban League and the Chamber of Commerce in Greenville, South Carolina;

the Boys and Girls Club in Albany, Georgia; the United Way of Ventura County, California; and in Phoenix, the Black Board of Directors Project and the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Rimm holds a bachelor of science degree in physics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a master of science degree in education from Georgia State University. In his free time, Mr. Rimm enjoys golf and basketball.

Dr. Miki Paul of Tucson, Arizona, is a professional practice psychologist member who replaces Dr. Maureen Lassen. Dr. Paul has a private practice where she treats young adults, adults, elderly individuals, couples and families. She holds a Ph.D.

from Ball State University in Counseling Psychology and has worked at the Arizona State Prison in Tucson and the La Frontera Center. She is very active in domestic violence and women's issues, having served on the Mayor's Task Force Against Domestic Violence and as president of the board of Brewster Center-Domestic Violence Services. In 2000, she received the Arizona Psychological Association's Distinguished Contribution to the Practice of Psychology Award. Two years later, she served as president of the Southern Arizona Psychological Association. Dr. Paul has the distinguished honor of being this year's recipient of the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contribution to Independent

or Institutional Practice in the Private Sector Award. In her spare time, Dr. Paul enjoys inline skating, traveling, and the mandolin.

The Board welcomes these two distinguished individuals to its membership.

Public Member Position Vacant

Manuel Delgado, Jr. J.D. resigned from the Board in July due to an increase in his professional workload at his private legal practice. Mr. Delgado had served on the Board as a public member since March 2002. His public member position is currently vacant pending a replacement appointment by the Governor.

Legislative Update

Below is a brief summary concerning the outcome of recent legislation that affected the Board and psychologists:

SB 1237 – As introduced, this legislation would have required that complaints filed against psychologists who perform court-ordered evaluations would have been required to be submitted through the courts. Through successful negotiations between the Board, Senator Leff and some of the forensic psychologists, a compromise was made that requires the Board's chairperson to appoint a complaint screening committee, which has the power to dismiss

complaints. These dismissed complaints may not be disclosed by telephone or on the Board's website. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 23, 2004 and became effective on August 25, 2004. Dr. Santos de Barona has appointed the members of that committee and work on procedures for that committee are in progress. (See article on page 1 for more details).

HB 2348 – This bill was originally introduced in the Senate as SB 1308, but failed in that format and was rolled into HB 2348. As initially passed, the legislation would have required persons

performing custody evaluations to obtain six hours of initial training in domestic violence by the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence and an additional six hours in child abuse issues provide by a non-profit organization that advocates for children. Every two years, six additional hours of training would have been required. Medical doctors and osteopathic doctors were specifically exempted. The compromise that was developed by the conference committee removed the references as to who could provide the training. In addition, the subsequent

training required was reduced from six hours every two years to four hours every two years and it directs the Domestic Relations Committee to develop the standards for training requirements. This provision of the bill becomes effective on July 1, 2006.

SB 1329 and HB2625 – These were identical bills that were proposed by Northcentral University in Prescott, Arizona that would have removed the requirement that applicants complete a residency at the institution that awarded the doctoral degree. Neither of those bills received a hearing in their house of origin and they both died.

New Licensees of the Board

The Board has licensed the following 103 psychologists since the last newsletter was published (February 2003):

Abtin, Azita, Psy.D.	Tucson	Mellott, Michael, Ed.D.	Flagstaff
Aidala, Heather, Psy.D.	Tempe	Mercer, Gina, Ph.D.	Phoenix
Akins, Faren, Ph.D.	Scottsdale	Mogrovejo, Luz Maria, Ph.D.	Buckeye
Amick, Nancy, Ph.D.	Tempe	Moon, Jennifer, Ph.D.	Tucson
Atkins, Abigail, Ed.D.	California	Moore, Raymond, Ph.D.	Iowa
Bates, Christine, Ph.D.	California	Morris, Carolyn, Ph.D.	Chinle
Bengtson, Bradley, Psy.D.	Benson	Murji, Shemira, Ph.D.	Phoenix
Burks-Raney, Valerie, Ph.D.	California	Ostrom, Jennifer, Ph.D.	Tempe
Cabezudo, Emily, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Paluc, Brenda, Ph.D.	Peoria
Caples, Heather, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Paweleck, Jennifer, Psy.D.	Sierra Vista
Castelot, Irene, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Perry, Gerald, Psy.D.	Scottsdale
Clark, Stanley, Ed.D.	Flagstaff	Phelps, Justin, Ed.D.	Springerville
Clouse, Glenn, Psy.D.	Phoenix	Potter, Phillip, Ph.D.	Tempe
Cunningham, Mark, Ph.D.	Texas	Pyburn, Connie, Ph.D.	Mesa
Dalton, Brady, Psy.D.	Phoenix	Qafisheh, Susan, Ph.D.	Tucson
Darby, Betty, Ph.D.	Prescott	Rabara, Michael, Psy.D.	Massachusetts
Darden, Robert	Wickenburg	Ramirez, Brian, Psy.D.	Tucson
Delaney, Mary, Ph.D.	Tempe	Riggs, Dawn, Ph.D.	Phoenix
Dorsey, Michelle, Ph.D.	Tucson	Ritchhart, Martina, Ph.D.	Tucson
Emmons, Shawn, Ph.D.	New Mexico	Rohen, Noelle, Ph.D.	Casa Grande
Feldman, Julie, Ph.D.	Tucson	Rypma, Craig, Ph.D.	Iowa
Fernandez-Tyson, Terri, Ph.D.	Tucson	Schmitt, Ara, Ph.D.	Tempe
Fischer, Lisa, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Schulte, Daniel, Ph.D.	Tempe
Flax, Maria, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Seymour, Thomas, Ph.D.	San Carlos
Friedman, Howard, Ph.D.	California	Shelton-McBryde, Diane, Psy.D.	Tucson
Garcia, Jessie, Ph.D.	Tempe	Shepard, Paula, Psy.D.	Scottsdale
Gatt, Jennifer, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Shibuya, Peter, Ph.D.	Tucson
Geen, Thomas, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Shibuya, Maria-Luanna, Ph.D.	Tucson
Gold, Debra, Psy.D.	Scottsdale	Skinner, Tad, Ph.D.	Tempe
Green, Ann, Psy.D.	Scottsdale	Smiley, Norine, Ph.D.	Scottsdale
Gregson, Kimberly, Psy.D.	Phoenix	Smith, Audrey, Psy.D.	Tucson
Heisler, Jay, Ph.D.	Alabama	St. Clair, John, Ph.D.	Glendale
Hermosillo-Romo, David, Ph.D.	Tucson	Storie, John, Psy.D.	Phoenix
Higgins, Dane, Ph.D.	Sun City	Swartout, Ilyssa, Psy.D.	Glendale
Higley, Sarah, Psy.D.	Phoenix	Telfer, Leslie, Ph.D.	Phoenix
Hoyer, Marilyn, Psy.D.	Tucson	Thatcher, Aileen, Ph.D.	Tucson
Huser, Laura, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Thomas, Tracy, Ph.D.	Phoenix
Katz, Bernard, Ph.D.	New York	Thomas, Kathy, Ph.D.	Gilbert
Kendall, Mary Ellen, Ph.D.	Pennsylvania	Van Der Veer, Nancy, Psy.D.	Mesa
Kirlin, Kristin, Ph.D.	Phoenix	VanPuymbroeck, Christina, Ph.D.	Tempe
Klein, Lynn, Ed.D.	Scottsdale	Ventura-Cook, Elizabeth, Ph.D.	Scottsdale
Komm, Richard, Ed.D.	California	Vickroy, Michael, Ph.D.	Casa Grande
Lantsman-Waugh, Marina, Ph.D.	Scottsdale	Walker, John, III Psy.D.	Phoenix
Lavoie, Michael, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Way, Samara, Ph.D.	Phoenix
Lewis, Jason, Ph.D.	Phoenix	Weinstock, David, Ph.D.	Scottsdale
Lozinski, Deborah, Ph.D.	Davis - Monthan AFB	Welker, Tara, Ph.D.	Phoenix
	Connecticut	White, Bradley, Ph.D.	Mesa
Marcus, Mary, Ph.D.	Tucson	Wiesner, Bonnie, Ph.D.	New Jersey
McCormick, Megan, Ph.D.	Tucson	Williams, Jeanne, Psy.D.	Massachusetts
McDonnell, Daniel, Ph.D.	Tucson	Wilshire, Thea, Ph.D.	San Carlos
McHale, Bruce, Ph.D.	Tucson	Wortman, Richard, Ph.D.	Green Valley
McLaughlin, Michael, Ph.D.	Tucson	Zeiger, Carolyn, Ph.D.	Tucson

Health Professionals Crime Reporting Bill

Psychologists (and other health professionals) are now required to report criminal charges to their Board, in writing, within ten days from when the charges are filed. Under A.R.S. § 32-3208, which also applies to applicants for licensure, a licensee or applicant must specifically report any misdemeanor charges that “may affect patient safety” and all felony charges.

Upon receipt of the information, the Board may conduct an investigation. However, the Board may also wait until a conviction is made, if at all, before finding a violation. Licensees who fail to report to the Board as required, commit unprofessional conduct and may face a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 and other sanctions that the Board may impose, after a hearing. The Board may deny licensure to an applicant who fails to comply with the notification requirements, although the applicant would be entitled to a license denial hearing.

Some of these misdemeanor offenses include shoplifting, deceptive business practices, false advertising, loitering, harassment, property offenses, misconduct involving weapons or explosives, drug offenses, etc. The law requires the Board to provide a list of reportable misdemeanors, i.e. those misdemeanors that may affect patient safety, to licenses or applicants who request it. The Board has made this list available on our website, www.psychboard.az.gov, under the link “Reportable Misdemeanors.” Please note that while this list is very broad, it is necessarily not exhaustive.

True/False Quiz

Test Your Knowledge of the Psychology Rules and Statutes



Answers on page 6

- | | | | |
|---|--------|--|--------|
| 1. A licensee must retain all adult client records for a minimum of seven years from the date of the last client activity. | T or F | 6. A licensee must inform the Board in writing within 10 days of any change to home or office address and phone number. | T or F |
| 2. Courses, workshops, seminars, or symposia designed to increase income or office efficiency may be claimed for continuing education credit. | T or F | 7. A psychologist does not have to release records to a client who has not paid for services. | T or F |
| 3. A licensee may receive continuing education credit for attending a Board meeting. | T or F | 8. The Board must notify a licensee that a complaint has been received within 30 days of receipt. | T or F |
| 4. A licensee must obtain a minimum of four hours of continuing education in professional ethics. | T or F | 9. The psychologist-client privilege does not extend in cases in which the psychologist has a duty to report information as required by law. | T or F |
| 5. A licensee may carry excess continuing education hours into the next renewal cycle. | T or F | 10. A complainant in a case before the Board is considered a "party"? | T or F |

SCORING INTERPRETATION GUIDE

If you scored...

0 – 2 points: Download your free copy of the statutes and rules from the Board's website and READ them! Then retake the quiz.

3 – 4 points: You are in need of remedial training. If you attend a few Board meetings you not only get CE credit, you may learn a few things.

5 – 6 points: Not bad, but why just be average?

7 – 8 points: You are a Psychology Board statutes and rules guru!

9 – 10 points: Wow! Have you ever considered teaching this stuff?

Psychopharmacology Training

(Continued from page 2)

privilege legislation in next year's Legislative Sessions. Physician's Assistants and Nurse Practitioners have had prescribing privileges for quite some time. In Arizona, Optometrists and Pharmacists recently received prescribing privileges. Each of these professions has their own unique limitations regarding supervision, formularies, etc., but for all practical purposes, this added scope of practice

benefits both the consumer as well as the profession. Before completing the psychopharmacology coursework, I already had a B.S. degree in Pharmacy. Many practicing psychologists who possess significant scientific training and/or degrees will have no difficulty acquiring this knowledge base. I realize that many psychologists have no remote interest in prescribing psychotropic medication to their clients.

However, for those of us who do and for those psychologists who wish to be prepared for the changes that are affecting the psychology profession, prescribing privileges for psychologists may be a concept to seriously consider.

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LOOK FOR THE **2005 LICENSE RENEWAL FORM** AT
WWW.PSYCHBOARD.AZ.GOV
AVAILABLE **MARCH 1, 2005.**

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The Board's mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of Arizona citizens by regulating the psychology profession. The Board was established in 1966 and has issued 2,761 licenses since then. There are currently 1,373 active licensees and 324 inactive licensed Arizona Psychologists.

Rules Update

The Board has drafted various changes to its rules in response to the statutorily required "Five-Year-Review of Rules" that state agencies must perform. The Board intends to make several housekeeping changes of a minor and technical nature, and has also proposed a few substantive changes in the areas of continuing education (CE) and licensing. Some of the substantive changes to the CE requirements:

- Requires all licensees to obtain four hours of Category I CE in the subject areas of domestic violence or child abuse;
- Allows licensees to receive

- CE credit in ethics for attending Board meetings;
- Changes the amount of time that licensees must keep documentation of CE from four years to the last two years.



Other changes would mean that the license renewal form will no longer ask for information that is rarely used by the Board and clarifies the procedure for

reactivating a license from inactive status.

Most of the other changes would apply to applicants for licensure. Some of these licensure changes:

- Requires applicants approved for the national examination to take the exam within one year of being approved by the Board, as there is currently no clear deadline;
- Removes the requirement that applicants who fail the exam three or more times have to meet personally with the Board to be re-approved for the exam. They would, however, still

have to complete remedial study;

- Lengthens the Board's substantive review time for applications from 60 days to 90.

The proposed rule changes will go into effect 60 days after they are filed with the Secretary of State's office (probably by early December—check the Board's website for updates). **The rule that licensees must obtain four hours of CE in child abuse or domestic violence will be required during the next two-year license renewal period, from and after May 1, 2005.**

True/False Quiz Answers

1. TRUE. See AAC R4-26-106(C)
2. FALSE. See AAC R4-26-207(J)
3. TRUE. See AAC R4-26-207(B)(1)(b)
4. TRUE. See AAC R4-26-207(B)
5. FALSE. Hours in excess of the 60 required hours may not be carried into the next cycle. See AAC R4-26-207(I)
6. FALSE. The Board must be informed within 30 days. See ARS 32-2066(B)
7. FALSE. "A psychologist shall not conditional record release on a client's or third party's payment for services" AAC R4-26-106(A).
8. FALSE. The Board must notify the psychologist within 120 days of receiving the information. See ARS 32-2081(A)
9. TRUE. See ARS 32-2085(A)
10. FALSE. "Party" means the Board, an applicant, a licensee or the state. See AAC R4-26-101